

EMS VISION IMPLEMENTATION GROUP – A SYSTEM FUNDING

San Diego, January 24, 2000

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

Richard Watson introduced Miranda Swanson, the Vision Project Manager and Sheila Keller, the internal EMSA Vision Project Administrator. Tim Sturgill, Chair recognized Sheila Keller as the new EMSA Lead/Liason for the committee, replacing Susan French who will remain as a member of the committee.

Committee Members Present: Tim Sturgill, Sheila Keller, Richard Watson, Miranda Swanson, David Nevins, Mike Williams, Barbara Pletz, Dennis Downs, Sheldon Gilbert, Kevin White.

Committee Members Absent: Susan French, Michael Frenn, Art Lathrop, Susie Smith, Victoria Cleary, Ken Carter, Mark Hartwig, Wesley Fields, M.D., Patricia Nunez, Steve Maiero.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting (December 13, 1999) were approved with minor changes. Changes consisted of correcting the focus group chairs which had been transposed in error. (David Nevins should be shown as the chair of the Transport focus group, and Sheldon Gilbert should be shown as the chair for the First Responder focus group.)

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

Old Business:

- Committee recommitted its focus to pursue a cost allocation model based on RVUs, as discussed in the previous meeting and to either look for new funding or redistribute what is already there (as opposed to decreasing unit costs).
- David Nevins distributed the minutes of the **Ambulance Fee Schedule Negotiating Rulemaking Session: Negotiated Rulemaking Advisory Committee on Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule**. Also distributed was the **AAA EMS System Cost Template**. (a product of the Aurthur Anderson Consulting Firm). This document will save the committee time on developing the transportation component. It is a cost allocation model only; the relative values will still need to be established. The conclusion of Project Hope will assist in developing the transportation RVU component.

A. Discussion

The committee discussed the following issues:

- The obstacles to establishing RVUs and the role of HCFA, which recognizes “ambulance rides only”. Costs were not inclusive of anything outside providing ambulance transport (i.e., dispatch, etc.).
- The role of HCFA’s Inspector General (IG) and possibly using that venue to develop a safe harbor.
- The need to determine what is considered acceptable to HCFA, i.e., what is considered a kickback and/or a discount.
- The question of whether the committee should go ahead and develop the RVU model, or get an advisory opinion from IG.
- The need to determine the appropriate entity in California to establish study (i.e., OTS, etc.)
- The possibility of applying for grant money to fund actuarial analysis to develop the RVU and, if so, to develop the project scope and document for distribution to interested organizations (for RFI) (i.e., possibly the state university system focusing on healthcare management only; not for graduate work.) Need to send out to everyone that would qualify.
- Funding range estimated: \$150,000
- Only calls that come through 9-1-1 system would be included in project scope.
- The project should spec out RVUs and leave it to the 2nd phase to establish cost allocation models.

B. Summary

The committee concluded that, in order to establish RVUs for the remaining EMS components, a study similar AAA’s should be conducted.

C. Action Items

- David Nevens will e-mail out the Project Hope document to committee members.
- The committee will portion out in RFI components for development for the RFI using the Project Hope abstract. The Focus groups were reconfigured as follows:

PSAP / Dispatch – Dennis Downs, Barbara Pletz, Steve Andriese, Art Lathrop
Transport –David Nevins, Michael Frenn, Tim Sturgill
1st Response – Sheldon Gilbert, Kevin White, Michael Frenn

New Business:

Miranda Swanson distributed the Vision Implementation Project handbooks. The draft will need to be approved by the Commission prior to final printing. It is anticipated that 1000 copies will be made and distributed to NHTSA, CDC, OTS, etc., as a marketing tool. Miranda also discussed the interactive calendar and its merge and search

capabilities. Each committee will have access to their own individual calendar, but another main calendar will be established for use by all main EMS organizations/activities.

IV. Tentative Agenda for Next Meeting & Date

A. Tentative Agenda

- Proposed RFI language for each of the EMS components using the Project Hope abstract as a template.
- Project funding

B. Next Meeting

- February 28, 2000 from 10:00 – 4:00
- EMS Authority (upstairs conference room)
1930 9th Street
Sacramento, CA

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